

**Otterburn Parish Council – Parish Clerk's Report
(3 September, 2025 – 28 October, 2025)**

6a: Road safety in the Parish including average speed cameras and planters: The average speed cameras have been installed as well as the road signs highlighting them. I am seeking an update from Neil Snowden (NCC) as to when they will be operational. The planters have been installed and the volunteers who have offered to plant and maintain them have advised bulbs have been planted with further plants to follow. The 85thile data from the speed indicator device recorded 32.0mph in September and 31.8mph in August. This follows the installation of the average speed cameras and a previous 12 month average of 38.88mph 85thile.

6b: Bus stop outside Memorial Hall: I am still attempting to get an update from Neil Easton (NCC) as to when the post with timetable will be installed on the south side of the A696 near the Memorial Hall as well as when a new bus stop sign to be installed at the bus shelter, replacing the faded sign.

6c: Parish Council vacancies: You will be asked to consider how the two remaining vacancies can be filled..

6d: 682 bus service West Woodburn to Hexham (to include Otterburn): I have been advised by Chris Curtis (NCC) that there has been agreement for the 682 service to be extended and include Otterburn. The timetable is still to be finalised as well as a starting date for this extended service and Mr Curtis will update when there has been further progress.

6e: Local Transport Programme 2026-29: As agreed at the previous meeting two requests were submitted. Firstly to seek safety features for pedestrians along the road from the Willow Green junction past the RTC to the first entrance of Otterburn Hall Estate. Second was a request for safety features for drivers at the bridge near Otterburn Mill.

6f: Repair of local roads signs: I am still attempting to get an update from NCC as to when the replacement signs will be in place.

6g: Broken boards at footbridge near weir: I am pleased to report NCC have replaced all boards on the bridge and removed the slippery exit, replacing it with a step and gravel slope that will make the bridge safer.

6h: Overnight parking at Percy Cross: I have shared the email from NCC on this topic and you will be asked to consider how you wish to proceed.

6i: Recycle of blister packs: Thanks are expressed to Ray Windfunds for the grant to pay for a further Terracycle blister recycle box that can be found in the entrance of the Memorial Hall.

6j: Christmas Eve event in Millennium Green: I am due to meet on Thursday with the two local residents who have volunteered to assist with the arrangements for the event and will update at the meeting.

9a: Request for an additional litter bin in Otterburn: I have been approached by a resident asking whether it would be possible for an additional litter bin to be placed in an appropriate location following the closure of Otterburn Mill and the removal of the bin there. Concern has been raised that there is no litter bin on that section of the Otterburn Trail from beyond Girsionfield until just outside the public toilets. I have approached Geoff Cairns (NCC) for costs and possible locations that NCC would be able to service a new bin and will update at the meeting.

9b: NCC free trees: As shared via email, an application has been made for a further 10 saplings from NCC. It is proposed to plant a few at Willow Green where the previous trees have not survived the dry summer and you will be asked to consider possible other locations.

9c: Community Governance Review 2025 pre-consultation: I have shared the details of the paper that will required to be completed and returned before the end of November.

9d: Spring bulbs and summer plants: It would appear that the four wooden plant tubs about the village require some attention as well as new plants to help them look good for 2026. Together with the recently installed planters you will be asked to consider the purchase of some appropriate bulbs / plants.

9e: Dementia friendly community: Having attended the Dementia Friends event at Elsdon on 27th you will be asked to consider whether the Parish wishes to replicate the actions of Wark Parish Council to make the community a Dementia Friendly location.